

Chapter 15

SOLICITORS

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Sec. 15-1. Definition.

The term "*solicitor*" shall mean a person who goes from door to door visiting multi-family or single-family dwellings for the following purposes:

- (a) To sell any goods, wares, merchandise or services or accept subscriptions or orders therefor.
- (b) To accept or request donations for any charitable purpose.

Sec. 15-2. Registration required.

All persons, before entering into or upon a residential premises within the county for the purpose of soliciting, shall register with the county sheriff and furnish him with the following information:

- (a) The name, local and permanent addresses, age, race, weight, height, color of hair and eyes and any other distinguishing physical characteristics of the applicant.
- (b) The nature or purpose for which solicitations will be made and the nature of the goods, wares, merchandise and services offered for sale.
- (c) The name and permanent address of the employer or organization represented.
- (d) A statement as to whether the applicant has been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor, and if so, the nature of the offense, when and where convicted and the penalty or punishment assessed therefor.

Sec. 15-3. Issuance of permit.

Upon furnishing the information required under section 15-2, the applicant shall be issued a permit, unless the information furnished in compliance with this chapter shows that the applicant has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. A permit issued under this chapter shall be good for one year from the date of issuance. Every solicitor shall carry his permit with him at all times while engaged in soliciting, and shall display the same to any person who shall demand to see the same while he is so engaged.

Sec. 15-4. Fee.

A fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) to cover the costs of investigation of the applicant and processing of the application shall be paid to the county sheriff when the application is filed, and shall not be returnable under any circumstances.

(Amended for recodification, 1987)

Sec. 15-5. Prohibited acts.

No person shall:

- (a) Enter into or upon a residential premises in the county under false pretenses to solicit for any purpose or for the purpose of soliciting orders for the sale of goods, wares or merchandise.
- (b) Remain in or on any residential premises after the owner or occupant has requested any such person to leave.
- (c) Enter upon any residential premises for soliciting, when the owner or occupant has displayed a "No Soliciting" sign on such premises.
- (d) Engage in the practice of soliciting in the county without a permit as provided for in this chapter.
- (e) Knowingly give false information or withhold correct information in obtaining a permit.

Sec. 15-6. Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

- (a) Any person who visits any residence or apartment at the request or invitation of the owner or occupant thereof.
- (b) To members of any nonprofit civic or charitable organization who have an approved means of identification provided by such organization.
- (c) Newsboys soliciting subscriptions to any newspaper for home delivery within the county.
- (d) Route deliverymen who make deliveries at least once a week to regular customers and whose solicitation is only incidental to their regular deliveries.
- (e) Any person selling fresh farm products.
- (f) Any person licensed under the provisions of Title 38.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Sec. 15-7. Limitations on applications.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to impose obligations inconsistent with the limitations on local ordinances set forth in section 57-63 of the Code of Virginia.